

Into His 2nd Year—

Carter Still Off the Track

*by
Gus Hall*





ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Gus Hall has been the General Secretary of the Communist Party, USA, since 1959. Born in Minnesota, in the 1930's he was one of the founders of the United Steelworkers of America, and a leader of the Little Steel Strike in 1937 in Ohio. He served in the U.S. Navy in World War II. In 1950 he was the National Secretary of the Communist Party. In the 1950s he served eight years in Leavenworth Federal Prison, a victim of the notorious thought-control Smith Act. Gus Hall is an internationally recognized authority on the social science of Marxism-Leninism and the author of scores of books and articles.

Gus Hall was the Communist Party's candidate for President in 1972, and again in 1976. Jarvis Tyner, now chairman of the N.Y. State Communist Party, was his Vice-Presidential running mate in both campaigns.

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by Gus Hall

As you folks in Chicago and the Midwest know so well, these are cold, hard times. Last winter was the coldest in 100 years, according to the meteorological records. This winter is making its mark as the stormiest winter on record.

The biting cold, the ill-winds and storms of these record-breaking winters add a new dimension to the crisis of everyday living.

The struggle to survive, to raise children, in unheated, leaky apartments has become daily torture for millions. They also have to worry about getting enough food to keep up their body energy and heat level so as to stay alive to fight off sickness and, in many cases, death. Cold viruses, flu, and pneumonia are more serious problems for the poor who can't afford doctors, medicine or hospitals.

The economic hardship of the winter are most severe for those who have to pay the higher food and fuel bills. And these miserable living conditions are doubly disastrous and intolerable for the people living in the ghettos and barrios of our country; also for the 65,000 recently laid-off steelworkers and their families.

As always, it is the poor and jobless who suffer and die during record-breaking winters.

Thus, these cold winters have a sharp class edge.

During these cold days one cannot but become concerned about the striking coal miners and their families who are without strike funds or unemployment checks. Eighty thousand of them are now cut off from pensions and medical care altogether. The miners and their families suffer through the strike because they insist on a very elementary right—that their lungs, arms, legs, and life itself are not to be



sacrificed to the digging of coal which only piles up huge corporate profits. We must all decide to become involved in their battle!

Carter's avalanche of messages

To add to the miseries of winter, we now have an avalanche of President Carter's messages to Congress. Like the winter storms, they also come in waves.

The State of the Union message was followed by the economic message and the tax and budget message. Still to come are the energy message and a dozen others. They are all sent to the U.S. Congress. But they are, in reality, different messages to different sections of the people.

The Carter message to the Pentagon brass and the military-industrial complex comes through loud and clear:

You can have anything your bloody, neutron bomb hearts desire.

To the armaments contractors the message is:

Here is 14% more above last year's billions, by way of sales to the Pentagon, and 30% more for military hardware that we will give as gifts to such great "human rights" defenders as the fascist butchers of Chile, the racist hangmen of the government of South Africa, to the gift-giving, corrupt oppressors in South Korea, Uruguay, Brazil and the reactionary occupation forces of Israel.

To big business

To big business in general, Carter pledges to work for the goal of doubling their present record-breaking profits during the Carter years in the White House. After taxes, corporate profits broke through the \$100 billion dollar mark in 1977.

The Carter message to the steel corporations was:

Here is a special \$100 million dollar gift, plus special tax cuts and import quotas, as payment for closing steel plants and laying off 65,000 steelworkers.

The December 23, 1977 *New York Times* reported that the steel industry had won aid from Carter to the tune of "increasing its profits by \$900 million next year."

Ominous messages to working people

To the steelworkers, Carter's message is as silent as the closed Campbell Works in Youngstown, Ohio. To all the working people and the poor, the Carter messages have an ominous ring. They say:

In spite of inflation and higher taxes make a maximum effort to stay within my wage-freezing guidelines.

To the long-suffering unemployed, Carter's message is:

Do not despair in your misery. The *private sector* will give you jobs. That is, if you live long enough.

And it's hard to believe—besides the winter storms—that tomorrow morning 350,000 unemployed workers will have their unemployment checks cut off! Not because they have jobs, but because of some bureaucratic mathematic equation!

Carter in a special message asked Congress to cancel almost \$1½ billion dollars that had been earmarked to pay for an additional 13 weeks of unemployment benefits.



Nothing against racist discrimination

To the Blacks, Chicanos, Puerto Ricans, Indian and Asian Americans, the Carter messages come as wintry blasts:

I will do nothing to end racist discrimination and segregation. The words "affirmative action" are campaign rhetoric, not guides to policy. I will not initiate any new programs to provide jobs, but I will hire 900 clerks to process the mountains of reports, surveys, studies and complaints because of racist discrimination.

Nothing for Youth

To the unemployed youth, the message is: I am endorsing the Humphrey-Hawkins bill because it does not contain any concrete measures, and in memory of Hubert Humphrey. And I still dream of Civilian Conservation Camps (CCC) run by retired military brass.

Nothing for Farmers

To the striking farmers the message from Carter and Bergland is:

Whoever said farmers have a right to a decent living on parity with other people in the U.S.? That's nothing but "Communist propaganda."

Carter's opening line in his State of the Union speech was: "Economically, militarily and politically, the country is sound."

Considering the shape of the dollar in the money markets of the world, one could say, it's as "sound" as the dollar.

How "sound" is our country?

How "sound" is a country in which most of the big urban centers face constant bankruptcy? How "sound" is a land in which we have, after 3 years on the upbeat side of the economic cycle, even after all of the juggling and fakery, an admitted 7% of the work force unemployed? We know that the truth is that about 13% of the work force who want jobs can't find any.



"Congratulations. You are as sound as the dollar used to be."

Carter promised to reduce unemployment to 6.2% by the end of 1979. Even if he keeps this promise, which we predict he won't, at that rate we would not have full employment until the year 2009!

How "sound" is the moral fiber of a society that permits this social and economic tragedy, that up to 80% of Black teenagers—a whole generation of youth—are entering adulthood without any opportunity to be on a payroll! How "sound" is a society that permits a thrown-out and locked-out generation?

How "sound" is life in the cities for people over 65 who live in constant fear of creeping starvation, of inflation-produced malnutrition and lonely isolation?

How "sound" is life in the cities where the bankers' bonds and interest payments are taken care of, but where social services are disastrously cut, and city employees and teachers are laid off?

How "sound" is the economy when most serious economists already talk about the hardening of the economic arteries and point to growing signs of a new economic crisis?

How "sound" can an economy be when the consumer price index increased 4.8% in 1976, 6.4% during 1977, and when all indications are that inflation will be 8% or more this year?

No solutions from Carter.

How "sound" can the country be when the President presents no solutions? When the corporations want to increase prices they do so, and thumb their noses at the so-called government jawboning.

But when workers ask for wage increases all hell breaks loose. The full force of the government and the mass media is mobilized against them.

As a result, in the 4 years between 1972 and 1976, the family budget increased by 43½%, while wages increased 28½%. As you can see, the result is a 15% gap.

How "sound" is the moral fiber of the land when the Illinois Supreme Court gives legality and legitimacy to a band of cutthroat racist, anti-Semitic, would-be lynch mobsters? This action of the Illinois court has nothing to do with defending democracy. **It is related to the fact that some sections of big business want to keep alive the option of a fascist takeover.** There were hundreds of similar court actions in Germany and Italy as the fascists were goosestepping to power.

Carter's policies are no surprise to us. We don't have to say "I told you so."

But it is a fact that before the Presidential elections we said that there was no difference between a Ford and a Carter. And before that, between Ford, Carter and Jackson, or any of the two-party candidates. We said they were all candidates of big business. It is one of those hard facts of life—**one cannot be simultaneously for big business and for the people.**

This week even the *New York Times* had to agree: "The enemy of big business is not the President." That is the understatement of the year.

Carter is very much in the tradition of past presidents, stretching back to Calvin Coolidge, who said, "The business of the United States is business." Then we had the years of "Tricky Dick," and his crewcut hoodlums, followed by "WIN-button" Ford and his political duffers.

Con-artists

Now we have Carter and his Georgia con-artists. Bert Lance, the con-man's con-man, may be out of Washington, but he continues to bottle and sell Carter's corporate snake oil—or is this new product peanut oil?

Carter's messages to Congress win the top prize for fakery and phoniness. I'm sorry, but no matter how hard I try there's absolutely nothing positive I can say about them.

Carter promised to cut the budget. But he presented the biggest budget in history—500 billion dollars—one-half trillion taxpayers' dollars.

Carter promised to cut military spending. But the year before Carter entered the White House, the military budget was \$95.7 billion. Now, he is asking for \$126 billion for 1979, and a whopping \$140.3 billion by 1983. So Carter's "cuts" are huge increases. It may be that the computers in the White House operate—as they say—"bass-ackwards."



"Whadda ya mean who won the election? Both candidates was our guy!"

More Taxes on the People

The Carter mass media pitchmen have been hooting about the so-called 25 billion dollar tax cut you're going to get. There's no question that for big business the proposal will mean about a 10 billion dollar tax cut for the corporations. Just yesterday, the news was that 17 of the very top corporations, including U.S. Steel, National Steel and Bethlehem, did not pay one penny in federal taxes. The biggest tax shelters in the land are now the monopoly corporations. The very biggest, AT&T, has a 3 billion dollar tax loophole. Carter's tax plans create new loopholes and enlarge the old ones. It will not be long before the corporations and the rich will all be in a special tax-free bracket.

But, for the man in the street, for the workers, the people, there will be a number of new, real tax increases.

There will be about a \$20 billion tax increase levied on the people because of the inflationary change in the tax rate.

Then, there will be a minimum starting tax amounting to \$25-30 billion a year, as a result of the energy bill now in the Joint Committee of Congress. Most of these taxes will be turned over to the oil monopolies.

There will also be an additional \$10 billion in the form of new social security taxes. And there is Carter's proposal for \$7 billion in special taxes—also on the people.

All this adds up to about \$65 billion in new taxes. You don't have to be a mathematician or a computer to see that the so-called \$25 billion tax cut Carter talks about, as far as the people are concerned, is going to turn into a \$30-40 billion tax increase. It takes a lot of snake oil to cover up such a fraud.

Budget fakery

Carter's big campaign promise was a balanced budget. It takes a lot of fakery to hide the fact that this year the increase in the national debt—which is really a mortgaging of the nation—will be the biggest in our nation's history at \$88.1 billion. As it is, 10% or \$50

billion of the whole national budget now goes to the banks and other financial institutions as interest on the national mortgage they hold.

Gas and oil price thievery

During the fuel crisis the establishment press derided us because we said the oil corporations, through their price gouging, were mainly responsible for the jump in gas and fuel prices. Now some of the facts are slowly coming out to prove we were absolutely right. These overcharges run into billions of dollars each year. Carter has done nothing to stop this robbery.

But even while some of the facts about this highway robbery are being exposed, the Carter budget adds new billions to Rockefeller's till.

The largest item in the proposed energy budget is for buying and storing one-half billion barrels of oil in the salt mines of Louisiana. For this oil the government—with the people's tax money—is paying the highest price. It amounts to over \$2 billion this year, and more than \$3 billion next year for the same thieving oil corporations.

Further, the Carter Administration makes it possible for the oil corporations to increase prices of gas and oil at a time when there is a big glut in the world oil market. **The public will be forced to pay for the \$5 billion of salt-mine oil and the higher prices for gas and oil.**

Empty rhetoric

Carter talked about the need for a "priority" in eliminating barriers to Blacks, Hispanics and other minorities and women. His is empty rhetoric. During his first year Black unemployment, previously more than double the level of white unemployment, went up to three times the level for whites—a new peak in the extent of racist job discrimination.

There is nothing concrete in the economic message, or in the budget message, to implement Carter's so-called "priority." Economic assistance for Blacks, Puerto Ricans and



Mexican Americans is intimately connected with urban programs. However, the chief urban assistance program, the Community Development Block Grant Program, remains static, with a proposed increase "not even enough to cover inflation in construction costs." There are no meaningful plans for the reconstruction of our cities in Carter's messages.

Affirmative INaction

The real Carter stance on racism is revealed by the inaction or negative action of

the Justice Department in relation to the racist offensive against "affirmative action," and in the verbal support Carter gives to the opponents of affirmative action.

The bottom line is that it is absolutely impossible to eliminate the racist barriers without definite minimum employment quotas and promotion quotas for all industries and occupations.

Hypocrisy on the Wilmington Ten

The real Carter stance is revealed by his support of the continued imprisonment of Rev. Ben Chavis and "the Wilmington Ten." Carter's support to the authority of the racist Governor of North Carolina to keep these human rights fighters in prison, without a witness or a particle of evidence, exposes the utter hypocrisy of Carter's preaching on human rights before the whole world.

Carter gives the people and the governments of the world pious lectures about human rights. He imposes economic sanctions and embargoes — all in the name of "human rights." But he can't even speak to Governor Hunt of North Carolina about a particularly heinous and outrageous crime against human rights, one which outrages decent people everywhere.

What a "sound" outlook for the future of our society!

More money for repression

The prison system is given a Carter budget increase of 12.5% for 4 new prisons and to add to the number of federal prisoners by 14.5%. The Carter outlook is to create jobs by building new prisons and to cut unemployment by increasing the prison population.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service gets an extra \$19 million to intensify the persecution of undocumented workers.

The reactionary, corrupt, anti-labor, racist FBI is given 3 million *more* dollars. It is permitted to keep nearly 20,000 agents and other employees on its full-time payroll. Is this "more open society", or just more FBI?

Away from detente

Carter continues his flowery speeches to the world about the need to abolish all nuclear weapons. **But actions speak louder than hypocritical words. And the Carter Administration's actions are not the road to peace. Carter has veered away from the pathway to detente.**

In his first year in office Carter refused to go ahead with the SALT II Agreements which were basically worked out and agreed to by the Soviet Union and the Ford Administration. All honest observers now agree that the package Vance took to Moscow some 10 months ago was deliberately designed to block and postpone any serious discussions about a SALT II agreement. It was not a package to control or reduce nuclear weapons.

Pushing the arms race

It is now clear that the Carter Administration and the Pentagon decided, right from the start, to push the arms race by developing the neutron bomb and the cruise missile to a new and most dangerous level. In the Pentagon's plans the development of the Neutron bomb and the Cruise missile took the place of the SALT II Agreements.

What about the neutron bomb?

Billions are being committed — in secret — for this terror weapon, which poses a new kind of threat to the world.

It is not surprising that all of the hated, fascist and racist military dictators from South Africa to Chile are showing such an interest in this anti-human weapon. It will kill people, but safeguard the properties of the multinational corporations. It is a crude Pentagon hoax to say that this hideous weapon is a "tactical" or a "new" conventional weapon. **The Dr. Strangeloves of the Potomac are using this hoax around the neutron bomb to blur the distinction between conventional and nuclear weapons. This is a most dangerous and sinister development!**

In a way it is fitting that this extra-vicious weapon is being developed under control of that super hawk of hawks, James Schlesinger, Secretary of Energy. As such, he took over the production of atomic bombs and other weapons of mass annihilation from the old Atomic Energy Commission.

The secret budget

Yes, the Carter Administration wants to keep it a secret that it is not waiting for international agreements, that it is ignoring Leonid Brezhnev's request that both countries agree not to develop the neutron bomb, but proceeding in the coming fiscal year to go from research and development to full scale production.

Schlesinger's office claims that the budget for the neutron bomb is secret. But the cat has been let out of the bag. A U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency report submitted to Congress said that the neutron bomb budget for fiscal 1978 was \$43.3 million.

The total weapons and related activity budget of the Department of Energy jumps to \$2.8 billion for fiscal 1979, **up 30% in just two years. There's reason to believe that much of that increase is for the neutron bomb.**

Senator John Heinz of Pennsylvania revealed on the floor of the Senate that each neutron bomb costs \$650,000, and that to replace the 17,000 U.S. warheads now in Western Europe would cost many billions — in fact \$11 billion. But of course, once the all-out neutron bomb program gets underway there will be the cost overruns, the cost escalators, the demand for neutron bombs everywhere. In short, tens of billions in more profits at the risk of the existence of the human race.

The neutron bomb is the beginning of a new family of the most dangerous nuclear weapons. It is a weapon that only kills living things. It is a weapon symbolic of a socio-economic system which does not have the support of the people — but sees the people as the enemy.

Carter's "Strike-first" budget

Schlesinger's department plans also include \$118,000 for the laser death ray, under development at the Livermore Laboratory in California, and Bell Telephone's Los Alamos facility in New Mexico. It has recently been revealed that 14 persons have become ill with a highly malignant form of cancer from their work at the Livermore Laboratory. The danger to workers in these terror weapon factories is bad enough, but nothing compared with the danger to the potential victims of their work.

The MX ballistic missile is the strike-first weapon in the nuclear arsenal. It would seem that Carter plans on achieving his goal of abolishing nuclear weapons in the world by striking first and annihilating the human race. So the budget calls for 158 million dollars — an increase of \$24 million for this weapon.

The cruise missile, with the neutron bomb, are the main arms race escalation items. The price for the cruise missile is \$611 million this year, and \$643 million next year.

Carter's budget also lays out \$105 million for the development of the B-1 bomber — that he had once announced he was **not** going to build!

The big money goes for such items as the Trident submarine — nearly \$3 billion. The Lockheed Corporation get over \$1 billion just for 86 Trident missiles.

Carter promised to cut down on overseas arms sales, but his budget proposals increase them to over \$13 billion by 1979; this is \$2 billion more than 1977.

To cover up what he is engaged in he has been talking against Soviet assistance to Ethiopia. But U.S. arms supplies to Iran alone exceed all Soviet arms sales to all countries.

The Carter budget is an arms budget. It is a nuclear strike-first budget. It is an anti-working class, anti-socialist and anti-national liberation budget.



"We are humanitarians. The human being is the center of all our aims!"

Unsound at the roots

One could go on and on about the fakery and phoniness of the Carter proposals. But no matter what part of the Carter messages one looks at, it is clear they are geared to support of policies of big business and the military, at home and abroad.

It should be obvious to everyone by now that the so-called lesser-of-two-evils is exposed as an evil of equal status.

The roots of the problems reflected in Carter's messages to Congress are much deeper than Carter or Bert Lance.

In fact, it is the roots that are not "sound." The bankruptcy of Carter's policies, like Ford's and Nixon's before him, is a reflection of the general structural crisis of this "free enterprise" capitalist system.

The crisis is tied into a big tangle of problems which cannot be solved in the old way. Because of the general decay, U.S. capitalism is now incapable of doing many of the things it was able to do during its younger, more virile days.

It is now incapable of keeping up the gigantic military budgets and simultaneously taking effective action against inflation and unemployment.

It cannot spend billions of dollars on war production, and also have the means with which to rebuild the decaying cities.

It cannot continue to keep the 1,000 U.S. military bases overseas, permit the monopolies to have a free hand with foreign investments, continue the policies of trade discrimination against the socialist countries, and also solve the problem of the floundering dollar, or take care of the huge trade deficit.

It cannot solve the problems of the steel industry without transferring billions of dollars from the arms budget — which does not use much steel — to domestic construction, which does.

That is, U.S. capitalism is incapable of doing these things unless it is forced by the people to make fundamental changes in policies and priorities. Very little can, or will be done about the problems without such a change in old policies and in old priorities.

Tricky, pro-imperialist policies

In Southern Africa Carter is carrying out the same tricky, pro-imperialist policies of Kissinger and Ford. That is, to retreat when necessary, but to preserve the profitable position of the U.S. multi-nationals. The imperialists are being forced to make concessions by the growing mass struggles of the Black peoples of Africa for their freedom. But the imperialists work with cunning to keep the changes within limits that would allow them — and, as much as possible, their white, racist, local allies — to retain their economic and political power and control.

The Middle East is another example of the same old policies applied with Carter's personal touch. With fanfare, Carter announced that he wanted the Palestinian people to be allowed to have a voice in their own future.

But although he used the words "homeland," and "self-determination," he was thinking of other things. He was thinking of splitting the forces of the Arab countries and continuing endless discussions, while Israel's occupation of the Arab lands would go on. Carter talked about a "homeland" for the Palestinian people, but he was really thinking about the "homeland" of the Rockefellers and the other oil millionaires.

The arrangements that Carter and Begin are working out with Sadat's help will not bring true peace to the area. A just and lasting peace is possible in the Middle East; but only when Israel withdraws to the 1967 borders — when such borders will be made secure and when the Palestinian people will have a legitimate place in the Middle East sun.

Effective solutions

Are there solutions to these problems? Of course there are! There are effective, concrete and immediate remedies. There are also more basic long-term solutions. But they all hinge on changing priorities and policies.

\$50 billion transfer

There is no sensible reason under the sun why we should not start with a minimum \$50 billion transfer from the military budget to the reconstruction of the urban centers.

Nationalization that will work

There are NO reasonable arguments why we should not start with the nationalization of such industries as energy, steel, coal, housing, mass transit, medical care and pharmaceuticals.

Without nationalization, the problems in these fields just can't be solved. Nationalization means that these industries would be taken out of the system of corporate profits, and democratically operated and controlled as public properties by elected representatives of the workers and public, and run for the benefit of the people.

Nothing short of actual nationalization will help. Some people who are well-meaning but not very realistic are pushing the idea that some committee can collect enough money to buy the shut-down Campbell Steel Works in Youngstown, Ohio. This is an illusion. Workers can't raise the money to buy industries. And even if they could buy one or two plants here and there, this wouldn't solve any problems. They would only be getting plants the private owners have allowed to run down — milked dry. And the workers would be left at the mercy of the banks.

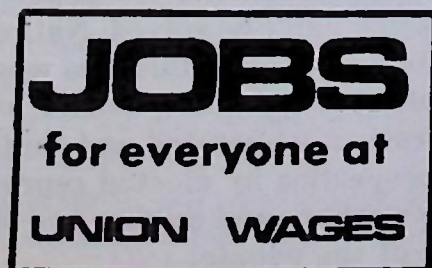
The key to nationalization is to take away control from the greedy private corporations by way of federal government action; not just a meaningless, little bit of control, but control that means something — control over the whole industry.

Some people ask: How will nationalization solve the problem? How will it guarantee jobs of the steelworkers? They point out that in other countries, like Britain, steel has been nationalized and still workers are laid off.

These are good questions. But there are good answers. The first act of people's management would be to declare a 6-hour work day without a cut in pay. That would create jobs.

Nationalization by itself would be an improvement. But it would still not solve all the problems.

Nationalization of steel would not guarantee workers jobs if the whole economy were run in such a way that the demand for steel kept falling. Nationalization has to be accompanied by action to keep the whole economy working at full capacity. This leads to the next necessary and reasonable proposal.



Restructuring our economy

A comprehensive program for restructuring our economy is necessary to solve some of its specific problems.

This program would include:

- **a massive housing program, and the rebuilding of our cities;**
- **the construction of mass transit systems;**
- **the rapid expansion of the energy industry — in particular coal — plus the necessary accompanying rebuilding of the railroads, roads and pipeline facilities;**
- **the repair or replacement of old bridges, supply systems, etc.**

Such a program would create a big demand for steel and many other products. It would create millions of jobs.

Without such a program of reconstruction the cities will continue to decay and crumble.

End trade restrictions

There is no good reason why the U.S. should not abolish the discriminatory trade regulations such as the Jackson-Vanik Amendment now in force against the socialist countries. Illinois Senator Stevenson's amendment to the trade agreements, by itself, is responsible for tens of thousands of workers being laid off in the machinery and steel industries. Senator Stevenson is personally responsible for much of the unemployment in Chicago.

These, and other concrete measures are necessary to begin to turn the economy around.

Such measures will become crucial when the effects of the new economic crisis take over.

Transfer funds to peace

The people of the U.S. must decide: whether to burn up hundreds of billions of dollars putting the neutron bombs, cruise missiles and the mobile rocket launchers into the bottomless pit of the Pentagon, OR, to insist upon the transfer of these wasted funds and efforts into the rebuilding of our cities.

But the question remains: How can we turn sensible solutions and remedies into realities?

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No solutions without struggle

That question is right on target. The elementary fact is that there are no solutions without struggle, because big business and big business-controlled governments never make concessions without a united struggle of the people against them. And a corollary to that elementary fact is that there can be no effective struggles without the people organizing and uniting their ranks. The forces of monopoly capital are well organized. And they also have the money. What they do NOT have is the people — the millions. United, the people can win anything. And I mean ANYTHING. What is most encouraging is that new waves of struggle, new movements, are now beginning to roll.

The Socialist path

We in the U.S. are wrestling with problems of a degenerate capitalism. To the people in the socialist countries our problems are strange, because they do not know the experience of "layoff" or "unemployment." They have no concept of "inflation" or "high taxes and rents." They view with amazement that we in the capitalist world have to pay for medical care and for education — basic human rights under socialism.

They cannot fully understand a society which does not care about, or accept a collective responsibility for each person's welfare.

The people in the socialist countries are amazed at the policies and practices of racial discrimination, segregation and inequality, because their societies have a history of affirmative action that has eliminated the inequality of peoples left over from the old regimes.

They have difficulty in understanding a society that is motivated by private profits which enrich the few at the expense of the poor and the working people, because their society is based on the sole motivation of serving the welfare of all the people.



The big lies about Socialism

One of the real crimes against the people of the U.S. is the **big lie, mass media campaign against socialism**. The press, radio and TV operate on the basis that the most vile and hideous lies are permissible, as long as they are directed against the socialist countries or the Communists. It is the old Hitlerite principle.

But the truth can't be hidden forever. Two weeks ago, the *New York Times* ran an ad by the *National Geographic* magazine which tells about Moscow.

"In this city the educational system is expanding so fast they're building an average of twenty schools each year.

"In this city housing is so important they put up 600,000 apartments in the last 5 years alone.

"In this city rush hour traffic flows smoothly and the subway system runs like a clock.

"And in this city the problem isn't a shortage of good jobs. It is a shortage of workers to fill the good jobs."—
(Emphasis added.)

Our society is in a tangle of crises because it isn't run by the people or for the people. It is run for monopoly profits. It is run to promote the farflung imperialist interests of the monopolies. The only way to begin solving the crises is to make the interests of the people felt. And the only way to do this is by exerting the strength of the people against monopoly through militant mass struggle.

Chicago and New York City are competing this winter for the title, "The Pot-Hole Capital of the World." In New York they are so big they are now called craters.

The problem of pot holes in the streets is very much like the problems of capitalism. The repair crews patch them, but they can't keep up with the new ones. They fill up some craters, but with the first rain or snowstorm they reappear. The holes get bigger and deeper.

We are reaching that point under capitalism. We cannot keep up with the recurring pot holes in our society and in our lives. Together we must begin to build a new, more durable highway — a socialist path for human progress in the U.S.A.

For a more detailed discussion of a people's solution to the steel plant shutdowns, order **BEAT THE STEEL CRISIS-SAVE EVERY JOB!**

It is the text of Gus Hall's speech to a capacity audience in the Hotel Ohio ballroom, Youngstown, O., on December 17, 1977.

Order from New Outlook Publishers
25¢ per copy, 5 for \$1.00.

Gus Hall is the author of numerous books, pamphlets and magazine and newspaper articles. Among his present books in print are:

THE CRISIS OF U.S. CAPITALISM AND THE FIGHTBACK.
Report to the 21st Convention of the Communist Party USA. 96pp.
Illustrated (1975)

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THE ENERGY RIP-OFF: *Cause and Cure.* A powerful expose of the giant oil monopolies and their conspiracy to rip off superprofit billions from the American people. 227pp. (1974)

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IMPERIALISM TODAY: *An Evaluation of Major Issues and Events of Our Time.* An analysis of the political, social and economic trends of the modern world by the General Secretary of the Communist Party USA. 384pp. (1972)

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